



U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

## U.S.-CHINA COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK T. ESPER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov)

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*Washington, D.C.* – Chairman Carolyn Bartholomew and Vice Chairman Dan Blumenthal are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Mark T. Esper, Executive Vice President of the Aerospace Industries Association of America, as a member of the Commission. Mr. Esper was appointed to the Commission by Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2008.

Previously, Mr. Esper was the Director of National Security Affairs for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN). His portfolio in that position included all defense, foreign policy, and intelligence matters for the United States Senate, where he also worked on trade and homeland security issues. Mr. Esper was also responsible for managing the national security committees of the Senate and all national security-related issues with the Executive Branch, the House of Representatives, foreign governments, and non-governmental organizations. From 2002 through 2004, Mr. Esper served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Negotiations Policy. His responsibilities as a senior official in the Department of Defense included nonproliferation policy, multilateral and bilateral arms control policy, law of armed conflict, and other international agreements. A copy of his bio is attached.

The Commission's twelve members are appointed by the joint Congressional leadership for two-year terms. The Commission was created by Congress in 2000 to investigate and assess the economic and security implications of the U.S.-China relationship. Its statutory charter is available at <http://www.uscc.gov/about/charter.php>.

The Commission will conduct its next public hearing on March 29-30, 2007, in Room 562 Dirksen Senate Office Building on the topic of "China's Military Modernization and its Impact on the United States and the Asia-Pacific." The full agenda and witnesses testifying at the hearings are posted on the Commission's Web Site [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov).

The Commission's four Annual Reports to Congress, transcripts of its public hearings, research papers, trade and economic related data, and translations of relevant Chinese-language materials are available on line at [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov).

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## **MARK T. ESPER**

Mark T. Esper is the Executive Vice President of the Aerospace Industries Association of America (AIA), the premier trade organization representing the nation's aerospace and defense industry in Washington since 1919. In addition to his duties as the association's executive vice president, Esper is also responsible for all national security, defense, and international affairs issues at AIA as head of the Defense and International Affairs Department. In this capacity, Mr. Esper also serves as co-chair of AIA's National Security, International, Defense, and Technical Operations Councils, and participates in federal advisory groups to the State and Commerce Departments.

Before assuming his present position in May 2006, Mr. Esper was the Director of National Security Affairs for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN). His portfolio in that position included all defense, foreign policy, and intelligence matters for the United States Senate, where he also worked on trade and homeland security issues. Mr. Esper was also responsible for managing the national security committees of the Senate and all national security-related issues with the Executive Branch, the House of Representatives, foreign governments, and non-governmental organizations.

From 2002 through 2004, Mr. Esper served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Negotiations Policy. His responsibilities as a senior official in the Department of Defense included nonproliferation policy, multilateral and bilateral arms control policy, law of armed conflict, and other international agreements. Prior to that, Mr. Esper served in a variety of positions in the United States Congress, including as a Senior Professional Staff Member responsible for national security affairs on the House Armed Services Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, and in the personal offices of Senators Fred Thompson and Chuck Hagel.

Mr. Esper is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is currently working on his Ph.D. in Public Policy at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and is an associate professor in the Graduate Department of Defense and Strategic Studies at Missouri State University in Virginia.

Mr. Esper served for ten years in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Officer in a variety of assignments around the world, including Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Iraq in 1990-91, before leaving active duty to become Chief of Staff at The Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

He resides in northern Virginia with his wife and three children.

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